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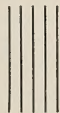
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CHRISTMAS EVE AT HOME

By CARL F. LEUTNER '52

The yuletide season is once again upon us. Yes, it is Christmas Eve, and the spirit of giving fills the air. Strife and turmoil are forgotten as a feeling of brotherhood reigns supreme.

Snow is falling steadily from steel gray overcast skies, relinquishing momentarily in its driving force as night fall slowly approaches. Great drifts of snow line the sidewalks, their peaks swirling in the wind. Street lights make their appearance and cast an eerie glow upon the magic already created by nature. Evergreens straining under their newly acquired glistening white burden, are colorfully illuminated, and add to the spectacle.

From nearby windows, holly wreaths with their flickering candles are barely seen through the frosted nature-made mask. In the distance, the clear pealing of church bells can be heard, serene and majestic in their tones. Christmas carols fill the air and instill within one the true spirit of Christmas.

Inside the home the traditional tree is being erected and trimmed. Tinsel is hung in plentiful quantities, adding to the symmetrical beauty of the tree. Multi-colored spheres and lights of varied shades are strung in decorative form. Last-minute adjustments are made, and finally the job is completed and appraised. Gifts are arranged at the base of the tree with the meticulous care that can only be given by doting parents, their excitement paralleled to that of the children.

By this time the children have fallen into a deep slumber, having been awake for hours in a state of anxiety mingled with anticipation. In their dreams, Saint Nick is already making his trip from the North Pole. They visualize him clearly, flying majestically through space in his reindeer-drawn sleigh, his roaring laughter ringing clearly through the still night air. As the night wears on, their dreams continue, full of hopeful thoughts. These are the thoughts of the average child, anxiously awaiting the coming of dawn.

Whether in man or child, the Christmas spirit is one of peace and contentment. In true poverty or in extreme wealth the feelings are basically the same. The spirit of giving and sharing is equal, regardless of financial means. Yes, this is Christmas Eve, simple and serene: Silent Night, Holy Night.

The GLEANER

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Farm School, Pennsylvania

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EDITORIALS

Wake Up, Aggies!

There was a time when students at the old "Farm School" talked, ate, and slept agriculture. In those days a student only spent twelve hours a week in class, and was therefore closer to the soil.

Now, necessarily, things are different. Since we have reached the status of a four-year agricultural college offering the bachelor of science degree in agriculture, we have become a more academic institution.

An unfortunate corollary to this development, we regret to say, is that many of our fellow students aren't sincere enough about AGRICULTURE!

This, of course, is a strong statement to make. We believe we have the proof:

1. Last month when a discussion group in a political science class discussed their choice for president of the United States, not ONE student mentioned his candidate's agricultural policy. This leads us to think that the student is not concerned with his future work, or has failed to see the significance of it and has taken the events of the day as a matter of course.

2. Let's look at our college clubs: Horticulture, Poultry, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Kennel, Glee, Band, Varsity, Chess, GLEANER, Rod and Gun, Photography, and Music Appreciation. Of these thirteen clubs, only the first four are directly connected with agriculture. Would you say that 31 per cent of all clubs is sufficient in an agricultural college? (Don't misunderstand us to mean that we are against other clubs outside of agriculture. We think that the work they are doing and their attendance are certainly inspiring and we hope they continue their good work.)

Not one of these agricultural clubs is represented in a national organization such as the Grange, 4-H, or Future Farmers of America.

3. Too few students, even juniors, have made up their minds as to what they want to do when they graduate.

(continued on page 15)

ON THE COVER

A night photo of Ulman Hall decked out in the Christmas spirit.

WHO'S WHO ON THE FACULTY

DAVID M. PURMELL, B.Sc., PROFESSOR OF HORTICULTURE

By ALFRED HASS '50

EVER since he can remember, Professor David M. Purmell has been interested in agriculture. When he was a child living in Estonia, he acquired this interest and has kept it ever since. His grandfather owned a large farm, and on vacations and weekends, the young boy would go out there to work.

Fruit trees held a special fascination for him, and at the age of thirteen he entered agricultural school to find out more about this field. Shunning the city and its grimy streets, Professor Purmell's life has been so thoroughly integrated with agriculture, that his career is interspersed with the history of many different farms and agricultural schools.

Upon graduation from school, Professor Purmell received a scholarship to study in the United States at the Baron de Hirsch Agricultural School in Woodbine, New Jersey. He worked on various farms for two years and then made an application to Michigan State Agricultural College. He was accepted and proceeded in the field of his choice, pomology, taking other related subjects, such as soils, botany, physiology, vegetable growing, nursery management, etc. His minor was agricultural education.

He supported himself through college by the earnings he had accumulated while working on farms, doing odd jobs here and there, working in the landscape department at school, and working in the chemistry and botany labs during his senior year. Vacations between terms were spent on farms, not only to help pay his tuition, but for the gain in practical experience. His work was not limited solely to fruit farms, but included dairy and general farming as well.

Whether it is in Principles of Horticulture or Vegetable Growing, or anything else he teaches, students know that Professor Purmell's classes are closely related to the field work. A lecture on pruning will be followed by a field trip to the orchard with each student carrying pruning shears. A discussion on seed germination terminates with an experiment in the green house.

It is because of this close integration with theory and practice that Professor Purmell's classes hold a double meaning;



Professor Purmell combining practical identification with theory in a systematic pomology lab

(1) the theory is taught to us; (2) the practical phases are placed directly before us, because we do the actual work.

Mr. Purmell also is in charge of the student garden projects which were so successful in the summers of 1947 and 1948.

After completion of his courses at Michigan (1914), Professor Purmell returned to his alma mater at Woodbine, N. J., and assumed the positions of head of the horticultural department and acting director of agriculture. He served in this capacity for four years, until in 1918 the school moved to Peekskill, N. Y. Here he undertook the responsibility of planning out the sites for the various agricultural enterprises, and conducting vast experiments with vegetables and

fruit trees. He remained in this position for three years.

Because of lack of public support, the Baron de Hirsch Agricultural School was forced to close, and Professor Purmell looked for a new position. It was here in 1922, that he was offered an instructorship by the National Farm School. He accepted and during his first few years he taught and was in charge of the memorial grounds and nursery. He also helped expand the horticultural department (which at the time was very small) by increasing the acreage devoted to vegetables and planting new orchards.

Professor Purmell has taught here steadily since 1922, except for a break in 1931-34, when he bought and managed his own fruit farm.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Elson on their marriage on November 25th. Mrs. Elson is the former Blanche E. Moss, of Philadelphia.

* * * *

It's a girl for Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Meyer. Elizabeth Louise Berry was born at 10:00 P.M. on November 26th at the Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia. The baby weighed five pounds and thirteen ounces.

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

MR. LOUIS BROMFIELD GUEST SPEAKER AT WEST CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

By ALFRED HASS, '50

AT a recent meeting of the Brandywine Valley Conservation District, Mr. Louis Bromfield, famous author and farmer, was guest speaker on a topic of concern to most of us, soil conservation.

Speaking from an economic point of view, Mr. Bromfield stated that taxes have had a direct relationship with the poor state of agriculture. The public has had to pay for the subsidies and grants being given out for the perpetuation of bad practices, and the money has only been used for treatment and not prevention. Seven million dollars are spent each year for dams, many of which are destroyed because of floods. Yet, any conservationist knows that floods must be stopped in the fields and not at river bottoms.

Although more rain fell in Bromfield's state than in the famous Ohio Flood of 1913, there was no loss of life and property because of the proper management of the land, plus the fact that formerly abandoned farms had gone back to forest and natural vegetation, which helped hold back the water.

Our Soil Fertility

Contrary to popular thinking, our pioneer ancestors were not good farmers. Mr. Bromfield says they were very poor tillers of the soil. They plowed soil which should have been left alone, planted uphill, overgrazed the range, depleted the soil, and when they had run down their farms, they moved on to another place, because land was cheap and plentiful. In a world of increasing population and decreasing land, those people who today follow in their grandpappy's footsteps are a menace to our civilization.

Mr. Bromfield blamed many of our present-day bad practices on what he termed the NPK mentality—too much reliance upon chemical fertilizers. Too many farmers believe that all that is necessary for high yields is a sufficient supply of nutrients. However, a balance must be established between nitrogen, phosphate, potash and calcium, with organic matter and lime.

In a soil rich in humus, the bacteria, molds, and various fungi go to work and release a portion of the many nutrients locked up in a mineral and in unavailable form. A further balance is needed between the basic fertilizer elements and those trace elements of which little is known. These minor elements are known to affect breeding and Bang's disease in cattle, and certain deficiency diseases in plants. More information is becoming known about the effects of copper, cobalt, manganese, and other elements upon plant yields.

Citing his own experience with Malabar Farm, Mr. Bromfield explained the practices he undertook to build up its fertility. The previous owners, and those before them back through the farm's history, had all given their share, or more correctly, *taken their share*.

They, like many people today, believed that inorganic fertilizers would result in high yields. And, for a few years, high yields did result. But in the course of time much was removed from the land and little was returned, and the soil was depleted. The importance of lime and organic matter was forgotten. This land which resembled cement, could not support crops. The indiscriminate use of chemicals and lack of organic matter had broken down the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil, and thus made it an easy prey for erosion.

In his talk, the speaker described how Malabar Farm was restored to its natural productivity with the use of manure, cover crops, and lime. Today, one hundred and seventy head of livestock feed, where five years ago less than twenty-five cows could find enough to graze. Wheat yields have increased from five to fifty bushels an acre, yet no more than two hundred fifty pounds of fertilizer are used per acre, except for corn.

The high yields are attributed to a proper balance between organic and inorganic constituents. (One should realize that a large amount of money was put into the farm, the bulk being spent for buildings, machinery, cattle, drainage, etc.—approximately \$100,000.)

The Farmer and the World

Mr. Bromfield has been all over the world and has spoken to many different people: farmers, businessmen, workers, scientists, soldiers and housewives. Of all these people, he prefers to converse more with the farmer than with anyone else. A farmer must be a biologist, veterinarian, economist, chemist, carpenter, and jack of all trades, and is therefore well versed in everyday affairs.

The speaker criticized the Department of Agriculture for not explaining the chemistry, biology and physics of agriculture, the soil, plants, and animals, to the farmers, and so give them a greater understanding of their soil and what they must do to raise its fertility and maintain it at a high level.

Turning to a group of high school boys who had received 4-H awards from the Brandywine Soil Conservation District for distinguished work in conservation, Mr. Bromfield remarked that these boys, the Future Farmers of America, would represent a turning point in American agriculture. They would augment the ten per cent which feeds half the nation.

In a closing statement, directed to the audience and to the 4-H award winners on the stage, Mr. Bromfield reminded everyone that, "Farming is the greatest profession in the world. The first man was a farmer and the last man will be a farmer."

PENN HALL

The building known as Penn Hall, and now the residence of members of our faculty, was a gift to the school from the State of Pennsylvania. At one time it was used as a class room building with a capacity of nineteen students and one instructor. It was built in 1918.

FOOTBALL UPSET

On October 17, 1931 the N.F.S. football team upset the heavily favored Brooklyn College of New York City 22-0.

— Alumni News —

Well, here I am again with a column just jam-packed with alumni news.

The GLEANER sent out 800 letters to alumni last month hoping that all Farm School grads would appreciate receiving this magazine, which features an alumni column each issue.

We must have a circulation of 1000 or better by this spring if we are to put out a bigger and better magazine.

Mr. Golden brought up his niece. Some of the students were goo-goo-eyed. Why don't you bring her around more often, Mr. Golden?

Mr. Elson '32 is having his hands full these days watching his young son working out on the turf. In a few more years the Aggies will have another Elson on their team.

The Alumni House got a little over-



Part of the huge alumni turnout at the New Haven game

At the present time, only 10 per cent of you alumni are subscribing. Why not subscribe today? We have lowered our subscription rate from \$5.00 to \$1.50 a year. Read all about what's new at N.A.C.

Well, with football season over, let's look back to the grandstand and see whom we saw. Of course, Mr. Golden was at every game except on those days when he went to Chicago on business. We got a kick out of him during the C.C.N.Y. game in N.Y.C., when he took one of the band player's mandolins and put on a very pleasing performance of old school songs and football favorites. Of course, other alumni seeing him play came over, and former band members took over some of the instruments. It certainly must have brought back many memories.

Incidentally, that New York game showed one of the best alumni attendances of the year. The old grads really cheered the boys on.

During the Baltimore College game

heated during the excitement over the victory against Baltimore. During that night a strong wind came down the chimney and flames began to shoot up from the central heating system. All the students staying there were hastily evacuated, but nothing happened to the building.

A couple of weeks ago we received the newspaper EL MUSTANG from California State Polytechnic Institute. We had never exchanged publications with that school before and were really surprised. Opening to the staff page, we noticed that Dave Goodman '44 was now attending college there, and was associate editor on the paper.

Josh Feldstein '42 and his wife spent their vacation in Florida a few weeks ago. Both are employed at N.A.C. Josh is also taking a few courses at the college leading toward his bachelor's degree.

Alumni!—Please help us continue this column by helping in news. Don't wait—do it right away!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Greenblatt:

Enclosed please find a check for subscription to the GLEANER. I am anxiously waiting for the first issue and hope that it will fulfill all of my expectations.

In the way of agricultural news it might be worthwhile to print about any new experiments being tried at the college and their results.

From my experience among various farms, I find that it is up to the agricultural schools to try new methods and prove that they are profitable before we can expect the farmers to try them.

Wishing you success for a good and profitable magazine, I am

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR C. SNYDER '40

Rising Sun, Md.

(There is experimentation going on here constantly. As soon as results become known, we try to bring them to our readers through the GLEANER.—Editor.)

Cash and Carry

Charles Hoff, finance officer at the University of Omaha, surveyed 288 colleges and universities throughout the country on current educational trends.

Some of his findings are: College and university tuition fees were 53.4 per cent higher last year than in 1936-37, and it is anticipated that they will average 16.9 per cent higher this year than in 1947-48.

Other notes: enrollments up 80.1 per cent over '40-'41; 97 out of 280 institutions using trailer-camp facilities for students and faculty; salaries for both faculty and administrative staffs on the rise 36.7 per cent since 1940-41—with 8.3 per cent to be added in the coming year. The cost of living index increased 56.4 per cent in the same period.



FIGHT TB
Buy Christmas Seals

Choral Singing, Democracy in Music

By ROBERT SHAW, *Director and Founder of The Collegiate Chorale*

On my current concert tour, which is taking me to many of the leading colleges and universities in the country, I find that group singing is still one of the most popular forms of student participation in extra curricular activities. Large segments of the student body are joining together in this democratic form of self-expression and they are having a wonderful time doing it. Absence of instrumental ability or any previous musical training is no bar to participation. All that is necessary is desire and willingness to learn, work and perform collectively.

Music is one art. The chorus, the symphony orchestra, the virtuoso recitalist and the string quartet are not competitive "attractions" but are instruments of a single craft. Music is a doer's art, and its benefits are in direct proportion to active participation. That is why I believe choral singing is potentially one of America's greatest forms of self-expression. I believe this also because it is my opinion that choral singing is uniquely a democratic art. It is first of all a group art, and collective community effort is one basic representation of democracy.

One man is not a glee club. He may be a virtuoso violinist, a virtuoso painter, or a virtuoso author—but the personalized expression of American democracy is not necessarily the virtuoso. It is people doing things together, out of a common regard for each other and a common affection and faith in the task for which they pool their effort. That is true politically, economically and, I believe, artistically. When people realize that together they can create a far more beautiful thing than they can as individuals—then you have a chorus—and democracy.

Choral singing is open immediately to the large masses of quite average people who have never had the time, opportunity or money to indulge in (or perhaps even the talent to warrant) the long years of specialized training demanded by the other arts. It is not confined to a select group of specially gifted and schooled individuals.

I have found that when people sing together they speak together. Language

is as much a part of song as melody, harmony, and rhythm. And since language is the particular pivot of human communication and understanding, choral singing has a pretty healthy edge on the less communicative arts. It therefore seems to me that choral art is destined to play a leading role in a democratic culture.

About seven years ago I organized the Collegiate Chorale, which was made up of young people of all races, religions and having all kinds of social and economic backgrounds. There were no hard and fast tests of technical aptitude required for admission to the chorale; only a reasonable amount of ability and the sincere desire to sing. From the four or five hundred young people who applied we simply selected the 185 most likely to succeed as choral singers.

Today I suppose you could call the Collegiate Chorale a success. The critics seem to like it, the public likes it, and its members like it. It has appeared in every major concert hall and stadium in New York City, and has sung under the direction of nearly all the leading symphonic conductors in the United States. Its top singers, who are members of the RCA Victor Chorale, have performed in the concert hall and on RCA Victor records in works ranging from the Broadway musical hit, "On the Town," whose music was composed by Leonard Bernstein, to Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata, "Christ Lay In the Bonds of Death." Our most recent major recording is Brahms' "German Requiem" with soprano Eleanor Streber and basso James Pease as soloists with the RCA Victor Chorale and a Symphony Orchestra. In its entirety the "Requiem" takes an hour and ten minutes to perform. We spent more than fifteen hours in committing the work to wax.

Judging by the enthusiastic response from the many music lovers who have heard the Collegiate Chorale, it seems to me that there are three distinct directions in which choral singing is moving — first, towards the establishment of large community and industrial choruses; second, towards higher standards of professionalism and permanence in the con-

NEWS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

By MAX BERKOWITZ '52

In order for us to become truly familiar with our chosen field of endeavor in agriculture, we must not only learn as much of the subject as we can in school, but we should try to keep in touch with authorities in our field. In meeting with and talking to them, we can exchange and pick up new ideas about our work and discuss various aspects of it with which we may not be fully familiar.

Several meetings will take place in the coming year, which N.A.C. students might well attend.

Agricultural Shows and Meetings

January 10-14 — Pennsylvania Farm Show, Harrisburg, Pa.

January 12—Hunterdon County Milk Producers Association, Stanton Grange, Stanton, N. J.

January 12-14—State Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Trenton, N. J.

January 21—Hunterdon Poultry Outlook Meeting, Flemington Cooperative Auction, Flemington, N. J.

January 24-29—New Jersey Farmers Week, Trenton, N. J. Almost every phase of agriculture will be represented at this meeting.

February 24—Hunterdon Dairy Institute Exhibits, Stanton Grange, Stanton, N. J.

cert field; and third, towards the development of a serious and distinguished American repertoire.

The nearer choral music moves toward the above goals the more readily will we come to achieving what I would call an authentic spirit in American music. As long as we recognize choral singing as an essentially democratic art the horizons of choral singing are unlimited. It is not inconceivable that in the near future choral singing will become America's greatest form of artistic self-expression.

—RCA Victor Release

HORTICULTURE AS A CAREER

By DON SELAK '50

Horticulture is that division of agriculture which relates to the culture of fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants. Horticulture is both an art and a science. It is an art because propagating, pruning, and spraying require special techniques which must be mastered if the work is to be done satisfactorily. The skills attained through practice develop into an art. The scientific reasons underlying these techniques which explain why the various operations are performed in particular fashions constitute a true science.

The primary objective of horticulture is to find ways by which horticultural plants can be made to yield the optimum benefits to mankind. In order to attain this objective, the horticulturist develops efficient methods for breeding, production, storage, transportation, and use of horticultural plants. He becomes familiar with the better methods for seed bed preparation; the suitability of plant varieties; the methods of cultivation; the soil and fertilizer requirements; the time of planting; the rotation, harvesting and marketing of crops; the control of horticultural enemies, including disease, insects, animals, and the botanical relationships.

There is a definite need for well-trained horticulturists. The number of graduate students with advanced degrees is inadequate to fill technical research, teaching, and extension field positions in horticulture. An estimated five to ten per cent of state and federal positions are now vacant for lack of qualified personnel, a situation which may continue for five or more years. In addition, there are excellent opportunities as research, sales, and contact men in commercial industries. Research and management posts in commercial orchards, vegetable farms, greenhouses, and nurseries are also available.

There are many jobs obtainable in commercial horticulture without an academic training. But for "career" jobs, the minimum educational requirement is a four-year college course leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture. Advanced degrees are almost mandatory for research and teaching positions. Examinations are required for most public horticultural positions.

Branches of specialization include research in colleges and experiment sta-

tions, inspection for grading horticultural products, extension and college teaching, and administration of governmental, educational and private horticultural enterprises.

A horticulturist should have a genuine interest in plants, an aptitude in botany and chemistry, perseverance in face of

the frequent initial failure of projects, and a writing and speaking ability. Good health and stamina are needed because much of the work is rugged and outdoors.

If a person has an aptitude for horticultural work, it should be fairly simple for him to find a place in one of its many fields. Horticulture has been, is now, and will continue to be of great economic, political, and social importance to mankind.

*****+*****

FOOD INDUSTRY: 16th Dairy Convention Outstanding Success

By JACK PERNATIN '50

Stirred by the element of competition that marks our economy, and the need for every particle of useful data on efficient business operations, the dairy industries' suppliers from every state of the Union and many foreign countries put on the greatest of the sixteen Dairy Industries Expositions at Atlantic City, October 25-30.

Among the more than 10,000 qualified visitors who attended the show, which was heralded as the world's largest for a single field of industry, were the Food Industry majors of the Junior class. They included: Jack Pernatin, Harold Haftel, Charles Raskin, Norman Rosen, Marvin Klein, and Dick Clark.

More than 2,500 products and services were on display, running the gamut from jewel-like precision instruments to twenty-ton single pieces of processing equipment.

The great exposition's displays were closely assembled over six acres in a monumental ocean entered upon from the famous boardwalk.

Special days during the show week were set aside for recognition of individual products.

In addition to the industrial displays of some 350 companies, there were attention getting non-commercial exhibits. The United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Dairy Industry, which has been experimenting for the past ten years in methods and effects of high temperature short-time processing of milk,

showed a heater designed by its laboratory staff. Several widely-known dairy groups also maintained educational booths.

A noteworthy feature of the show was the Collegiate Students International Contest in Judging Dairy Products. A Grand National, Hambletonian, and World Series rolled into one, the contest sponsored by the American Dairy Science Association and the Dairy Industries Supply Association is top dog in collegiate dairy products judging competition. The contest was under the direction of the U.S.D.A.

Fast competition was the hallmark of the collegiate contest. Two fellowships—instead of one—were granted this year to the college team running up the highest score. Each fellowship carries a grant of \$850.

The contest tested the ability of the contestants as judges. In dairy products competition the four leading products: milk, butter, cheese, and ice cream, were judged. The teams consisted of three undergraduate students from different land-grant State Agricultural Colleges and similar institutions.

A total of twenty-two awards were bestowed upon the winners during a ceremonial dinner. In addition to the two fellowships, five silver cups went to winning teams and fifteen gold, silver, and bronze medals were presented to individual contestants.

Snow

By HERBERT ROSENOFF '50

The flakes of snow drifted leisurely to earth, covering the city streets and sidewalks with a blanket of white. Sanitation Department employees gazed skyward, muttering to themselves, thinking of the additional work snowfall brings. Children everywhere danced with glee, catching the sparkling flakes and testing them to see if the snow was wet enough to pack. Snowball fights and sled-riding were the thoughts foremost in their minds.

Gradually, the snow became deeper and compact where people walked and cars drove by. Automobiles skidded to stops at corners, some turning completely around in their efforts to halt. Pedestrians gingerly picked their way across the slippery streets and sidewalks, a few meeting the hard ground suddenly with a dull thud.

The clank of skid chains against the pavement as cars passed grew more frequent. Yes, winter was here in its full glory.

After the snow had subsided, the Department of Sanitation went into action clearing the streets with its different forms of machinery. One particular machine, almost dragon-like in appearance literally ate up the snow from the banks at the edge of the roadways where it had been piled by the snow plows, and deposited the white mass in trucks. In operation, this mechanical dinosaur appeared similar to a forage harvester.

Automobile transportation was slowed down; garbage collections were at a standstill. The streets became black instead of white as slush and mud splashed upon the white snowbanks. It was to be a long, hard winter. This was only the first snow; many more were to follow.

Blankets of Snow in the Country

The fields of the rural areas were also white, a few patches of dry withered grass appearing here and there where the snow as yet had failed to cover them. A few gnarled trees spread their ugly bare branches skyward in a grotesque manner. The evergreens alone remained as they were during the summertime.

Everything was white in the forest. Animals remained in their dens, refusing to venture forth in search of food until

the falling of the white flakes had subsided. The tranquility and silence the descending flakes brought with them seemed impossible to break. All was quiet, serene, and white.

Gradually, the number of drifting flakes in the air diminished, then ceased to fall. The whiteness was everywhere; it could not be escaped. Slowly, day drew into night; twilight passed quickly, and the sun was no more. Yet the brightness of the snow provided enough reflection to permit most activities. Gradually the last few flakes settled to earth.

Snow Stops and Wildlife Appears

Squirrels poked their heads out of their tree nests and slowly began to survey the situation which was vaguely familiar to most, but a new wonder for some. Birds stood in their nests and ruffled their feathers to shake off any snow that might have remained. Rabbits and other rodents slowly opened their burrows to permit ventilation, then ventured forth cautiously into the sea of whiteness. Soon, most of the other animals gathered courage and became ac-

tive. In short order, the white blanket had become dented here and there. Then the snow became packed where trails were followed. The crisscross of tiny roads made an effective checkerboard in the snow.

Nearby, in the farmhouse, the folks gathered 'round the fireplace to keep as warm as possible. Giant V-plows cleared the roads, building up a snow-bank alongside the highway so high that it hid the plow. The winds whirled the snowflakes round and round, depositing them in piles alongside the buildings, until the drifts reached the window sills, then the roof, and finally the telephone wires.

It would be a long time before the ground would be bare again, free from snow. The whiteness would gradually melt, forming miniature rivers washing away soil and snow down the hillsides into the hollows, then spring and green fields would be on their way.

This was not far off, yet we were in store for a lengthy winter, one we would never forget as long as we lived. Each
(continued on page 14)



NEWS OF THE CLUBS

By GEORGE BLEIBTREU '52

When an N.A.C. student has his homework out of the way, a little time on his hands, and an interest in some special field, that is the time for him to investigate several of our college organizations.

THE BAND

If he is a musician at heart, he might want to join the band. He does not have to know how to play an instrument to join, much less to have one of his own.

He will be enabled to benefit from the teaching of Lieutenant Frankel, a very accomplished musician, who has had many years of experience in working with bands. Under the leadership of Stan Barber, the N.A.C. band has a fine record of performances at football games.

After the football season, the band is planning to give a series of concerts at school and in town which should be highly entertaining to both participants and listeners.

THE PHOTO CLUB

Another shutter bug? Swell. Tell him about the Photographic Society. This is one of the best organized and tightly-knit activity groups on the campus.

Any student who is interested in any aspect of photography is eligible to join the Photographic Society, whether or not he owns a camera.

As a member, he enjoys the privilege of using the Society's new fully-equipped darkroom, going along on society field trips, taking instruction in printing, developing or any other aspect of photography from Dr. Reinthaler, the group's faculty advisor, and just joining in the fun that ensues when camera fans talk shop.

THE KENNEL CLUB

Who doesn't like dogs? If your friend is one of the many who are happiest when feeding, playing with, and caring for "man's best friend," he should certainly join the Kennel Club.

Club headquarters are in the kennel down past the gym where members keep their dogs. At the present time, the club has Pointers, Springer Spaniels, Doberman Pinschers and a Collie.

Already the Kennel Club has treated the school to a program which included the showing of several movies on dogs.



Taken at Andre's Rose Houses on a Hort Society field trip

Throughout the year, the Kennel Club intends to present such programs for the benefit of all those who love dogs.

THE DAIRY CLUB

If we have in our midst a prospective dairy farmer, he might be interested in joining the Dairy Club here in college, where he could meet others who share his plans.

If he wanted to, he could start building the beginnings of his own herd of cows. He would no doubt be glad to take in all of the field trips the club is planning, to study various farms in this vicinity.

He could swap ideas with his fellow

members and discuss with them the latest discoveries and practices developed by the dairy industry.

He could listen with them to the many interesting speakers, authorities in their own field, which the club is planning to present.

THE HORT SOCIETY

Does our man like dirt farming? Is he interested in any of the many varied aspects of horticulture? Let him inquire about the Horticulture Society.

Here he will have a chance to visit progressive farms in this vicinity. He will be given a chance to hear leaders in

(continued on page 17)

THE CHESS CLUB

By DANNY BUGESLOV '51

The newly formed Chess Club is almost as unique among the rest of our clubs and societies as the game of chess is among all other forms of human recreation. As a matter of fact, it was called a "club" only because no better name could be found for it. It consists of approximately twenty students whose purpose is to add to the versatility of our extra-curricular activities by introducing the royal game of chess, which they consider to be scientific and thought-provoking, as well as recreational and amusing.

The club is as informal as it can be. It conducts no regular meetings and collects no dues. The only requirements for membership are a penetrating, analytical mind, and a willingness to learn.

One end of the table adjoining the eastern wall of the library was set aside by Mr. Finkler, the faculty advisor, for the activities of the chess club. Several chess sets and chess magazines have been placed there for the use of the enthusiasts.

With the view of establishing a chess team that can represent the National Agricultural College in competition with similar teams of other colleges, the chess club is sponsoring a tournament. A college champion is also to be selected. Most of the tournament games have already been played, and it appears that the leading players are Al Hass, Danny Bugeslov, Jack Deming, and Herbert Reback.

After the tournament is concluded, the best student players intend to challenge the faculty to a little series of friendly games.

FORDHOOK FARM

Branch of Burpee Seed Company Adjacent to N.A.C. Campus

By DANNY BUGESLOV '51

THE Burpee Seed Co. established in 1876 is one of the oldest seed companies in this country. It is by far the largest mail-order house in the world. The original purpose of the company was to introduce new vegetable varieties from all parts of the world.

W. A. Burpee, founder of the company, introduced hundreds of new varieties into America. Among these varieties are such famous ones as Netted Gem Muskmelon (1881), Golden Bantam Sweet Corn (1902), Burpee's Fordhook Lima (1907), and Copenhagen Market Cabbage, to mention just a few.

Founding and Location of Experimental Farm

As the number of imported varieties grew, there appeared a need to determine their relative merits and to improve their quality through selection and breeding. To meet this need, W. A. Burpee founded, in 1880, the Fordhook Farm, located on the outskirts of Doylestown, Pa., between the west end of the Lower State Road and Route 202. Today, it is the company's main breeding station.

The Fordhook Farm includes a total of 500 acres. Of these, 100 to 150 are under intensive and carefully administered cultivation. Seven trained men are in charge of the breeding work. The total number of employees varies according to the season from 50 to 130.

The geographical location of the Fordhook Farm is particularly advantageous from the commercial standpoint. It en-

ables the company to breed varieties of both flowers and vegetables that are readily adaptable to the eastern states, where the bulk of the sales are concentrated.

The commercial, large scale production of seed, however, is carried on in the West. In the eastern states, high humidity and the presence of many diseases retard the growth of plants and prevents the successful curing of their seeds. The relatively warmer western states (Iowa, Idaho, and California, for example) offer a longer growing season and a lower humidity under which the curing of seed can be regulated more efficiently.

While there are some difficulties encountered in using seeds of cross pollinated varieties that were produced elsewhere, seeds of pollinated plants can be more readily adapted to different climatic conditions.

Purpose of Fordhook

The object of Fordhook Farm is two-fold: to test and maintain the foundation stocks, and to breed new and better varieties.

Foundation stocks are especially selected lots of seed for propagation purposes. These are checked in seed laboratories in Philadelphia. Samples from the lots are then sent to Fordhook Farm. Here, special tests are conducted to determine:

- (1) the vitality and germination of seeds.
- (2) the purity, or uniformity, for the

particular variety of the seed, and

(3) the trueness of the lot to the name on the label.

Seeds of most major classes of vegetables (such as tomatoes, squash, pumpkins, cucumbers, and watermelons) are first planted in greenhouses and later transplanted to the field.

The time for inspection varies with the class and variety of the particular plant. Radishes, spinach and peas are inspected in the late spring, from May to July, whereas corn, tomatoes, carrots and the various types of beans are inspected in August. Stocks are rated for purity and vitality. The ratings range from 1 (excellent) to 5 (unacceptable).

Considerable work is being carried out at Fordhook to improve the standard varieties of vegetables. By the process of breeding and selection, the solid content of squash and pumpkin fruits is being increased and the fiber is being eliminated. Through inbreeding, greater uniformity is attained, and the percentage of marketable vegetables is increased.

Hybrid Work

In addition to improving the common, standard varieties, Fordhook Farm is carrying on an extensive program of hybrid vegetable seed production, probably one of the most difficult and challenging undertakings in plant breeding. Fantastic as this may seem, it is, in reality, not only beneficial and advantageous, but also highly practical.

"Hybrid vegetables are definitely the things to come!" says Dr. Oved Shifris, director of vegetable research at Fordhook; and the advantages of these new varieties indicate that his statement is by no means exaggerated.

A hybrid plant is the offspring of the crossing of two inbred parents. In comparison with their parents, hybrid vegetable plants.

- (1) grow faster and are eventually larger in size,
 - (2) bear more numerous fruit, and occasionally for a longer period of time,
 - (3) yield a more uniform product, and
 - (4) incorporate into hybrids resist-
- (continued on page 15)



Fordhook Experimental Greenhouses

GEORGE DALE, FRESHMAN AT 61

By JACK GREENBERG '50

The presence of an elderly gentleman on the campus has been a source of wonder for many of us this term. Many have asked, "Is he a student?" or "Is he a member of the faculty?" Well, here is the lowdown.

This dignified-looking gentleman is George H. Dale, born in Philadelphia in 1887. He was graduated from Neptune Township High School, Ocean Grove, New Jersey. Mr. Dale, as many have thought, is a student at the National Agricultural College.

Upon his retirement from the National Guard, having attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Mr. Dale felt that he was destined from youth to be a "builder." Being a religious man, he felt that growing and producing was the joy of living with God. All through life he had seen man destroy; now he has an opportunity to help prevent some of the waste in the world.

The idealistic philosophy of Mr. Dale is illustrated in his statement: "I can spend all day in my garden and in two minutes I feel clean, but let me spend two minutes in my car, and I feel dirty all day."

A man of wide experience, who has traveled all over this country working for the government, Mr. Dale has observed that the coordination and cooperation between the faculty and the stu-



George Dale in the Chem lab

dents here make for the assured success of our college. He feels that N.A.C. had done a better job in training men in the first ten days of this semester than the army could have done in months.

Mr. George H. Dale, the students of N.A.C. proudly welcome you as a student, and hope that your fondest dreams of living with the soil and the bees will soon come true.

The Veteran's Corner

By SHELDON KOLTOFF '51

Attention! Veterans attending college under the G.I. Bill! Please submit any questions which you may have concerning your G. I. Bill of Rights to this column. We will obtain the information which you desire. (Room101.)

Q. If I am attending college under Public Law 16 do I have to pay a medical fee?

A. If you are attending college under Public Law 16, you do not have to pay a medical fee. Public Law 16 states that during any period of time in which the veteran is under rehabilitation, all medical expenses will be paid for by the government. (This has been put into effect recently. Last year the government did not cover this fee.—Editor.)

Q. If I receive a textbook for a course and I am afterwards compelled to drop the course, am I entitled to the textbook?

A. No, you are not entitled to keep the textbook. The only textbooks which you may keep are those for courses which you are completing.

GLEE CLUB

By SAM SILVER '50

The National Agricultural College Glee Club is one of the school's latest developments in extra-curricular activities. It was organized a year ago with twelve to fifteen members, and after a little more than two months of rehearsals, the club gave its first performance at the school's annual football banquet.

Shortly thereafter, the Glee Club sponsored the "Holiday Festival," which was a program consisting of musical entertainment by both the Glee Club and several outside guests. It was the first program of its kind at the college and proved very successful.

In the few months following, the Glee Club gave several performances in Philadelphia before various social and educational groups. Last May, the Glee Club temporarily discontinued its rehearsals in preparation for a three months' summer vacation.

After settling down once more to the

regular school routine, the N.A.C. Glee Club was reorganized in October. The club now consists of thirty members under the directorship of Mrs. Richman, of Philadelphia, and Mrs. Shelley, of Doylestown, and is already showing great promise for the coming season.

At the present the club is working on an entirely new group of songs and is looking forward to several engagements in the very near future. These include a performance on the radio in early December and a bigger and better program at the second annual Holiday Festival. The first program was presented earlier this year at the Lions Club, in Doylestown.

With such interest, vigor, and enthusiasm, of both the members and the leaders, it should not be long before the Glee Club has the honor of being the best student organization of the National Agricultural College.

Snow

(continued from page 11)

successive winter left a deep impression on our hearts and minds. Each held the promise of nightly sleigh rides along lonely country roads with the girl from next door. It was a great experience to look forward to, but equally joyous to look back upon.

Some of the most unforgettable portions of our lives were spent during winter, where the snow was cold and white, yet warm and friendly. It was nature in one of her most glorious shows of strength and power; in her most sparkling, refreshing pose; in her robes of white, proclaiming winter, season of snow.

Editorials

(continued from page 5)

Many students are constantly switching their courses, demonstrating that an uncertainty exists in their minds.

Now to go back to our first statement. It's again time for us to start talking, eating, and sleeping agriculture.

Let's Wake Up, Aggies!

Build up your present clubs and form new ones. Attend meetings, especially the ones at which movies are shown or outside speakers are present. Freshmen, join in. You will be given a cordial welcome. Get acquainted with your school farms. See the work that is going on at these places. Don't overlook your library. Spend some time each week in it. Magazines and bulletins are constantly coming in for your benefit.

Fordhook Farm

(continued from page 13)

ance to a number of diseases, a condition commonly known as hybrid vigor.

Burpee's hybrid cucumbers and tomatoes have already proven themselves and are becoming increasingly popular throughout the country.

These are just a few of the scientific projects which are conducted under expert supervision at Fordhook Farm. Practically in our "back yard," this farm is undoubtedly one of the most educational spots in the vicinity of our campus.

Every member of the student body, especially those interested in plant research and horticulture, should visit it.

IN THE LIBRARY

Because of the great demand from students, exchange magazines and newspapers from other schools will be placed on one of the magazine racks in the library after the first of the year.

Some of the publications we will make available to the students are: THE CORNELL COUNTRYMAN, RUTGERS RURAL REVIEW, MISSOURI FARMER, FIAT LUX (Alfred University), IOWA AGRICULTURIST, and THE KANSAS AGRICULTURAL STUDENT.

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SPORTS

SUPPORT YOUR TEAMS

Let's try to have 100 per cent student attendance during basketball season. It means so much to the team to see support from their own student body. Everyone wants a winning team, but it is difficult for players to get up enthusiasm when they see only a handful of students at a game.

Why can't we get up enough spirit so that when our basketball team travels to such nearby schools as Valley Forge, Glassboro State Teachers, College of South Jersey, and Lycoming College we can rally enough cars or hire a bus so that the student body can follow and support their team?

There are eight home games on the basketball schedule. Let's be present at all of these, and try to attend some of those that are away.

INTRAMURAL OUTLOOK

By ERNIE COHEN '50

"Bucket of Blood!" It's about time for another rip-roaring season of intramural basketball to get under way. For those who have never lived through one of these grueling campaigns, here is the story.

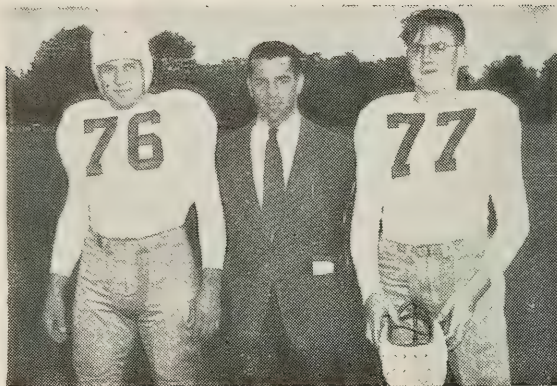
Last year the teams represented sections of the dorm. (Third floor front, first floor rear, etc.) This league brought out many strong rivalries and many hard fought games.

The Softball Tournament, however, was run according to teams formed among the students. This system also worked out quite well. So! how is the tournament to be run this year? It's being left to the preference of the students.

I would recommend, however, that we use the same basketball set-up that we did last year. This system tends to develop a better-balanced league.

What kind of competition can be expected? Only the toughest. Last year's basketball games were featured by everything from an unbalanced line to a fast breaking two team system.

It was usually not customary for varsity basketball candidates to play in the intra-murals. So, all you amateurs, go out and get those teams set and, I'll see you on the court.



Mike Scheier (76), Mr. Glick and Jack Newman (77) at one of the Football Games

1948 FOOTBALL SEASON IN REVIEW

AGGIES 39; STROUDSBURG J. V. 7

It looked like the first game of this season was still part of that 64-0 rout we finished up with last year. Scheier closed last season with six touchdowns, but could manage only four for the opener.

Pete Kerkhoff quite capably handled the other scoring chores, the two other N.A.C. touchdowns.

* * *

WILKES 28; AGGIES 13

No tea party was expected when N.A.C. entertained Wilkes College from the coal regions of Pennsylvania. Last year's contest had ended in a 6-6 draw, and both teams were definitely out for blood. There was a determined gang of Bulldogs out there, but those breaker boys from the mines were just as rough and tough as their reputation indicated.

It was a battle all the way, the Aggies fighting to keep that undefeated streak alive, but the final gun found the Green and Gold on the short end of a 28 to 13 score. The scoring for N.A.C. was taken care of by Mike Scheier and Charlie Kehnell. Mike also kicked the one extra point.

* * *

GLASSBORO 20; AGGIES 12

Probably the darkest day of the season for N.A.C. came at the hands of Glassboro. It was not the only game the

boys lost, but it was a game which should have been an Aggie victory. Much credit, however, must be given to the Fighting Teachers of Glassboro who had, in one season, transformed themselves from pushovers to power houses.

The Aggies scored first when Dick Reeves pulled in a pass by Walt Riggins. In the third quarter Glassboro got the touchdown back but it didn't take much longer for Scheier to put the Farmers in front again.

That really woke the visitors and they didn't stop till the final score was 20-12 in their favor. This was the first time an N.A.C. team was ever outfought.

* * *

AGGIES 13; F. M. FRESHMEN 0

The field was soggy and the ball was slippery, but that didn't stop amphibious Joe Fulcoly from running over for both of the touchdowns scored that afternoon. It might have been a joyous victory but for the injuries which riddled the N.A.C. squad.

* * *

AGGIES 19; C.C.N.Y. J. V. 0

An abbreviated Green and Gold team took a trip to Lewisohn Stadium in New York to see if they could put the team's split record on the winning side.

No time was lost as Charlie Kehnell ran through the City team on one of the first plays from scrimmage.

The play of the season was seen that day when Kerkhoff ran 102 yards only to have a touchdown called back because of a clipping penalty.

The other scoring saw Reeves hit pay dirt on a pass from Fulcoly, and La Rosa crossed the goal line on a 57-yard run.

* * *

AGGIES 49; BALTIMORE 6

The boys began clicking from the first play, and when the dust of battle cleared away the Bulldogs had walloped Baltimore, 49-6.

Riggins and Fulcoly each scored twice while Kehnell, Reeves, and Newman each broke into the scoring column once. This game was featured by some talented passing and running by Jack Newman and by the emergence of "Automatic" Mike Scheir, who converted 7 out of 7.

* * *

POTOMAC STATE 7; AGGIES 7

It was a dark day for the Bulldogs in more ways than one, but when the sun did emerge from behind the clouds the Fighting Farmers of N.A.C. came from behind to tie an aggressive bunch of Mountaineers from Potomac State.

The visitors scored early in the game, and it took several determined goal line stands to hold them to one touchdown. Finally, during the fourth period the

Aggies caught fire and sailed right down the field.

The drive was climaxed by a pass, Seridge to Kerkhoff, who took it over. "Automatic" Mike Scheir kicked the point to knot the score. It was "Automatic's" eighth straight conversion.

Though for quite a while the day did look dark and dreary, the game was tied on spirit and determination alone.

* * *

NEW HAVEN STATE TEACHERS 32; AGGIES 26

Talk about see-saw battles—Aggie fans really saw one in the finale of the '48 season. Back and forth went the score, but the only trouble was that the Farmers finished on the shorter end of the 32-26 score.

The Aggies scored in a nutshell: Pass: Rosen to Kerkhoff; line buck by Fulcoly; interception by Scheir, and finally, a sleeper pass from Kerkhoff to Scheir. Extra points: Scheir, two.

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

| | T. D. | E. Pts. | Totals |
|-----------|-------|---------|--------|
| Scheir | 8 | 13 | 61 |
| Fulcoly | 5 | 0 | 30 |
| Kerkhoff | 4 | 0 | 24 |
| Kenell | 3 | 0 | 18 |
| Reeves | 3 | 0 | 18 |
| Riggins | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| Newman | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| LaRosa | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Heitsmith | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | 178 |

| SEASON RECORD | | |
|----------------------|-----|--------|
| Visitors | | Aggies |
| E. Stroudsburg J. V. | 7 | 39 |
| Wilkes | 28 | 13 |
| Glassboro | 20 | 12 |
| F. M. Fresh. | 0 | 13 |
| C. C. N. Y. J. V. | 0 | 19 |
| Potomac State | 7 | 7 |
| New Haven State | 32 | 26 |
| | 100 | 178 |

News of the Clubs

(continued from page 12)

various branches of horticulture lecture to the society once each month.

He will be able to exchange the latest "dope" with his fellow members, and will thereby be better qualified for his chosen field of endeavor later on.

POULTRY SCIENCE CLUB

Lastly, our friend may be one of those strange individuals who has a soft spot in his heart for poultry. In that case, it might be very well for him to join an organization with one of the most ambitious programs on campus, the Poultry Science Club.

This club intends not only to serve refreshments at each meeting, but to present the foremost spokesmen for the poultry industry as guest speakers. The club will engage in the usual field trips to modern poultry farms in the vicinity to study their methods.

A duck project is also planned, whereby the members will raise the quackers for sale or for their own tables.

SCHEDULE OF CLUBS

AT THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

This schedule has been set up by the Student Council to lessen conflicts among the various activities, and to enable students to participate in clubs of their choice. This schedule is in effect every month of the school year except when otherwise announced.

| Week | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thur. |
|------|--------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| I | Photo. | Glee Hort. | Rod & Gun Band * Assembly | Glee; Music Apprec. Poultry |
| II | | Glee Dairy | Band * Assembly | Glee; Music Apprec. Gleaner; Goat |
| III | Photo. | Glee Hort. | Rod & Gun Band * Assembly | Glee; Music Apprec. Poultry |
| IV | | Glee Dairy | Band * Assembly | Glee; Music Apprec. Gleaner; Goat |

*College assemblies are scheduled for 1 P.M. on Wed. and students are required to attend. Watch for assembly announcements.

The Kennel and Chess clubs have no assigned days for meeting. They meet at their own convenience.

College athletic teams practice every day starting at 4 P.M. (Football, basketball, and baseball.)

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